



Clinician alert #64 – all clinicians

Effective from 01 September 2021

New information

- Update on medical exemptions to COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccination for people aged 60 and over, and
- Providing an mRNA vaccine as a second dose to someone who has had a serious reaction to first dose of AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria).

Medical exemptions to COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccination for people aged 60 and over

The process for requesting an exemption to COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccination for people aged 60 and over has been revised. Treating doctors can now complete a medical exemption [form](#) for patients 60 years and over who meet the specific eligibility criteria to access an mRNA vaccination series. Patients should show this form to their vaccination provider as evidence of eligibility for mRNA vaccine before they are vaccinated. **Booking is not required at state-run clinics.** Further information and access to the new form is available [here](#).

Providing an mRNA vaccine as a second dose to someone who has had a serious reaction to first dose of AstraZeneca

- Treating doctors can use the same medical exemption [form](#) for people who have experienced a serious vaccine-attributed adverse event after the first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine to allow the patient to receive an mRNA vaccine as a second dose.
- [ATAGI clinical guidance](#) recommends completing the vaccination course with the same vaccine for most people. Mixed schedules are only recommended in special circumstances, such as for those with serious vaccine-attributed adverse events after the first dose, and pregnant women who have received a first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine.
- Determining what is a serious vaccine-attributable adverse event should be made by the patient's treating clinician, typically in consultation with an experienced immunisation provider/medical specialist, taking into account whether repeat vaccine doses would be associated with a risk of recurrence of the serious adverse event.
- ATAGI advises serious adverse events are generally defined as those which require hospitalisation (e.g., thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca); are medically significant (e.g., immune thrombocytopenic purpura, myocarditis), are potentially life threatening (e.g., anaphylaxis) and/or result in persistent or significant disability (e.g., Guillain-Barre Syndrome). Serious reactions do not typically include expected local or systemic reactions known to occur within the first few days after vaccination.
- Adults who have experienced anaphylaxis or severe allergic reaction to a dose of COVID-19 vaccine should be referred to SCGH Immunology Vaccine Clinic to inform future vaccination options. Patients under 16 can be referred to Perth Children's Hospital Infectious Diseases Clinic. Please refer through the [Central Referral Service](#).
- Serious adverse events following a COVID-19 vaccine should be reported to the Western Australian Vaccine Safety Surveillance (WAVSS) system [online](#).

Vaccination Eligibility

- Vaccination eligibility and booking processes vary between the state and primary care settings.
- Information on eligibility and bookings at WA Health metropolitan and regional vaccination clinics WA is available [here](#).
- Information on eligibility **and bookings applying** to primary care vaccination sites including general practices, Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics and Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Services is available [here](#).

Further information

[ATAGI: COVID-19 vaccination – Clinical advice on the use of a different COVID-19 vaccine as the second dose](#)

WA Vaccination information

https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-vaccine

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